

Visit to Porthdinllaen 27/28 September 2019

I visited Porthdinllaen, with my wife Caroline, on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> September for an impartial investigation to see if local boat users have problems associated with the seagrass meadow while pursuing their marine activities.

The only person we met officially was the National Trust officer, Robert Parkinson. Unofficially we managed to meet with the following over two days: seven professional fishermen (Harry, Rod, John, Stu, Peter, Dyfed, and his cousin, many of them second or third generation); Mike Davies (who was the lifeboat coxswain for 15 years until 2018); and Jake Davies (a marine biologist and diver with extensive experience of the seagrass meadows). None of them had been primed so were not expecting us.

The inner harbour moorings, all the buildings and much of the shore around the bay are owned by the National Trust. There is also an outer harbour where the fishermen have their moorings. All the moorings are in the seagrass meadow and have been for generations according to the local fishermen. Their keep pots are also deployed in the seagrass meadow.

No one had any experience of fouled propellers or blocked intakes associated with seagrass. One fisherman (Harry) commented that his intake filter occasionally had to be cleared of seagrass material but it had never been a significant problem.

All the mooring ground chains in both harbours cause scouring of the seagrass but it has always grown satisfactorily between them. Anecdotally overall the meadow has increased in size over the years.

John Walmsley

Commodore Dale YC